

Regular Meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

6:00 PM School Administration Building 2nd Floor Conference Room

286 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

I Meeting will come to order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

a. Roll call

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Coughlin-absent; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms. Nordquist- will be late; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Spooner-here

Also in attendance were Mrs. Deborah Cylke, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Kimberly Mercer, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment, Mr. Thomas Conlon, Business Administrator, Ms. Margaret Baker, Assistant Business Administrator and Mr. Stephen M. Robinson, Legal Counsel for the School Committee.

Ms. Nordquist arrived at 6:05 PM.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Chairman.

Mrs. Cylke: I'd like to recognize Ms. Kathleen Suriani, our new School Performance Officer in charge of Elementary.

Ms. Suriani: Thank you and I'm thrilled to try this new position and will do the best job that I can.

Mrs. Cylke: Also here this evening is Laura Olsen, our new Freshman Facilitator at Tolman. She got a wonderful compliment from Charleen Christy who as you may know represented the teachers for many

years.

Ms. Olsen: I taught French for 10 years in Boston Public schools and have a technology background. I went back to school and worked at Durfee in Fall River and look forward to working with the freshmen students.

II Recognition/Celebration

Mrs. Cylke: I had the privilege of accepting an award this week and some members are here from our Wellness Committee whom Joanne Bonollo chairs. The Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition chose to honor the Wellness Committee and they will be going to Washington D. C. and Michelle Obama will be hosting Healthy Kids Fair. I'd like to give this to you. You earned this. Solange Morrisette has worked hard with Rhode Island Farmers to get proper food to our children to eat healthy.

Mrs. Cylke: Welcome our Student Representatives. It's truly the best part of our meetings.

III Student Representatives

a. Shea-Anton and Liana

Anton: It's our pleasure to be here this evening. On October 15th it's our Family Harvest Festival.

Liana: We are planning a trip to the Dominican Republic. It's another country to learn about their culture.

Anton: The Drama Club will be going to New York during February vacation.

Liana: We recently had the senior picnic and the girls won the tug of war.

Anton: The National Honor Society Inauguration will be selecting new members.

Liana: As far as our sports programs, the football games are on Fridays, we have the girls' volleyball and soccer going on now and our boys' soccer team is number two in New England.

Anton: Lots of people are showing up this year and it's great to see the support.

The Key Club has a lot of community service events. There's Project Smile; the Debate Club and the China Club.

b. Tolman- Jerilynn and Karina

Mrs. Olsen our new assistant has started and she's great. In sports, the boys' soccer team is undefeated and some of the other teams could be doing better.

NECAPS are coming up and we're hoping to do better than last year.

Our NEASC visit is coming up and on November 2nd the School Committee will be invited to a meeting. The final details will be available on October 30, 2011.

c. JMW- Destiny and Michael

Michael: A local television show hosted by Anthony Walsh featured Mr. Haidemenos and Alicia E. and they were asked questions about our school and its program recently.

Destiny: Our open house will be October 27. My classmates will be doing a production of Mouse Trap in December. JMW are participating in the carving of the pumpkins in Slater Park.

Ms. Nordquist: I saw something recently from the Students Point of View.

Mr. Noonan: I saw the Anthony Walsh show and it was very good. Terrific job, John.

The Chairman asked if anyone objected to moving the Pawtucket Foundation Presentation out of order to the next item. No one objected.

IX Presentation Items

a. Pawtucket Foundation Presentation – ENVISION PAWTUCKET

Mrs. Cylke: Thomas Mann is the Executive Director of the Pawtucket Foundation and he is here tonight because he asked to share their plans of Main Street. Unfortunately, Dan Sullivan and Kevin Tracey couldn't be here this evening.

Mr. Mann: Thank you for inviting me. The Pawtucket Foundation recently met with members of the business community and got together to come up with the plan to see how we could make the City better. We also want to share with you our strategic plan.

We are taking on projects such as bicycle paths and looking at the riverfront.

We want members of the community to get involved. We want clear and focused projects. We need to put together a budget. If it is articulated, I can find the money. Out of \$167,000, I found \$110,000 in grants. The money is directly invested in the projects—community based projects. Currently there is \$165,000 in monies that are pending.

One of those projects is how do we market Pawtucket? How do we market the Pawtucket School District? We are illustrating a web based portal of the school district and what it would be like to be a

Pawtucket student.

Mr. Mann played a short video entitled “Envision Pawtucket.”

Mrs. Cylke: There is real opportunity to support the Pawtucket Foundation and their core mission. Their core mission is not really education, but it is interrelated. I believe we share the same goals and visions of the City. They have great social events and I serve on their board now. Thank you, Thomas.

Mr. Mann: My wife is a graduate of Tolman High School. She has her 20th reunion coming up soon.

IV Public Participation

Mr. Joseph Knight: What I am here to speak about is a blatant intent to limit public access to public participation. “The Committee is precluded from discussing or acting on items raised by Public comment, which are not already on the agenda.” Mr. Knight distributed a single sheet of paper to the Committee Members and the Clerk and proceeded to read it.

This statement appears in the public Open Meetings Act and is defined as and The Open Meetings Act now recognizes an optional Open Forum portion of a meeting, which is defined as “the designated portion of an open meeting, if any, on a properly posted notice reserved for citizens to Address comments to a public body relating to matters affecting the public business.” R. I. General Laws § 42-46-2(f).

Any or all of the members of a public body (school committees included) may respond to comments initiated by a member of the public during the open forum portion of a meeting even if the matter

was not previously posted on the agenda, for informational purposes only. R. I. General Laws § 42-46-6(d).

For the record, one of the problems is they are afraid to come forward because they are in violation of the OMA and may be in violation of the City Charter.

V Executive Session

The Chairman commented that the Committee may possibly recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5 (a) (1) job performance, character, or physical/mental health (2) legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining of the General Laws of the State of R. I. for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon: certified personnel termination; contractual matters; certified and non certified and to seal executive session minutes.

Mr. Noonan moved to recess to executive session. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recessed to executive session from 6:45 PM to 7:22 PM.

VI Reconvene Open Session

The Chairman reconvened the open session at 7:24 PM.

a. Roll call

Mr. Araujo-here; Ms. Bonollo-here; Mr. Noonan-here; Ms.

Nordquist-here; Mr. Tenreiro-here; Mr. Spooner-here

VII Report out vote(s) of executive session of 9/27/11, if applicable

The Chairman asked the Clerk if there were any votes to report out.

The Clerk reported that the Committee unanimously voted to seal the executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive session.

The Chairman once again inquired if anyone had any objections to moving agenda items out of order. No one objected.

X New Business-Action Items

a. Approval of Certified Appointments

Ms. Mercer: At this time we are recommending for your approval the following appointments:

Ashley Farrell, Kindergarten Teacher, Varieur Elementary, Step One

Jacqueline Gallishaw, Kindergarten, Cunningham Elementary, Step 7 + Masters

Noelle Pinsonneault, Fallon Elementary, Step One

Coaches:

Ryan Worthington, Freshman Football Assistant Coach, Tolman, Salary \$1,013

Lauren Estrada, Girls' Soccer Assistant Coach, Tolman, Salary \$2,610

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve both certified teacher and coaching appointments as recommended by the Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Mercer. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; Ms. Bonollo-yes; Mr. Noonan-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes;

Mr. Tenreiro-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Approval of One Year Extension of District Technology Plan

Mrs. Cylke: Tonight we are seeking approval of the extension of Mike's technology plan.

Mr. St. Jean: Every three years school districts have to have a plan on hand to qualify for e-rate reimbursement. In front of you this evening is that plan. Does anyone have any questions?

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the extension of the e-rate technology policy plan. **Mr. Noonan** seconded.

Roll call

Mr. Araujo-yes; **Ms. Bonollo**-yes; **Mr. Noonan**-yes; **Ms. Nordquist**-yes; **Mr. Tenreiro**-yes; **Mr. Spooner**-yes

Motion carried unanimously.

c. Approval of Draft Proposal to align school committee meeting format with National School Board Association-School Committee Policy BEDD-First Reading

Mrs. Cylke: The numbering system the National School Board Association suggests using numbers instead of Roman Numerals. I'm adding a consent agenda which was requested. We needed to present a draft to you that you can accept or bring changes to. We're not in alliance with policy.

Ms. Nordquist: Alan, I know you wanted this. Will the School Committee still have reports under here?

Mrs. Cylke: Under number four.

Mr. Noonan: I share Ms. Nordquist's concerns.

Mr. Tenreiro: My comments would be the public comment and what the committee would want and I think it's very dangerous and my

experience can be it's very general and if it's important it be put on the agenda. If you look at 5.01, the consent agenda; the general practice is you don't go through singular vote on motion.

Ms. Nordquist: One member's item has made it to Channel 10 and the rest of the Committee has not had a chance to respond. On this is what one member is doing something and the rest of us hadn't even had a chance to discuss.

Mrs. Cylke: This topic is really important. You may want to wait. We have the Governance workshop sessions and we can seek their guidance and we can have a policy that puts parameters around these reports. It may work better to have this discussion after we meet with the consultants.

Mr. Spooner: I want to say I agree on one issue and we have a lot of important issues and I agree with Nicole. I want to say I think this committee has a lot going for it.

Mr. Araujo: When the public are here the estimated time should be taken off.

Mr. Noonan left at 7:40 PM.

Mrs. Cylke: It's agreed that the committee will hold off on this until the Governance workshop.

IX Presentation Items

b. Enrollment Update – Fall 2011

Ms. Mercer: We have been getting the enrollment totals from the schools and we have learned that Blackstone Valley Prep has added two grade levels and some of those students could have enrolled in their program.

Elementary enrollment is up 143.

The total district is in a down trend.

Enrollment is up from June.

It's down in the secondary level.

We had 158 students enroll since September in ESL.

c. Key Academic Initiatives 2011-2012

Mrs. Cylke: In order to improve our graduation rates we need to focus on reading, writing and math and a trajectory role we are on a continuation for key initiatives.

Ms. Mercer: I want to introduce those responsible and they are Kathy Suriani, School Performance Officer-Elementary; Kim McCaughey-Literacy; Gail Mulligan-Common Core Curriculum; Eileen Crudele- Special Education Director; Mike Davenport-Math; Julie Motta-ESL; Mike Connolly-Applied Learning; Lynn Cristino-Technology Educator and Support; Mike St. Jean-Director of Technology; Hersh Cristino-Instructional Technology.

The junior highs went to a seven period schedule and the high schools went back to a six period schedule.

Ms. McCaughey: Common core ELA curriculum in grades kindergarten through 12 will be implemented next year. Superkids rollout in grades kindergarten through grades 2. This will include professional development for teachers in grades K-2 and support personnel and Administrators. Dibels will be available to grades kindergarten through grades 6. We will be able to purchase system and input information for teachers and access all information.

Grade 1 literacy initiative with Carol. Tolman at Baldwin (September –

May)

There will be a writing project getting students to write in all areas at the junior highs.

There will be a phoneme grapheme mapping system which is a way to get students to pay attention to the sounds of words.

Read 180/System 44 – Reading intervention for students in grade 2-6.

There is also Wilson training for special educators.

Mr. Tenreiro: Did we get a waiver for RTI?

Mrs. Cylke: Only for secondary.

Math

Mr. Davenport: We are aligning math with the common core standards focusing grades 2-6 on working with numbers better. In junior high there are real high common core standards.

Mr. Tenreiro: Did any grades go through ramp up?

Mr. Davenport: No. There has been a big change in Math and it will give us a good idea of which students are doing well or need help.

Mr. Tenreiro: Obviously we do have some accelerated students. Do you feel they do the math real well?

Mr. Davenport: We have two 15 minute a day programs; Fasttmath and Fraction Nation. Scholastic math is valid in grades 2-8.

Enrichment courses for students in grades 7 and 8 are now performing to get ready for Algebra for the 9th grade.

There is a supplemental program in Algebra.

Ms. Nordquist: The math enrichment, is NECAP the only gage you use?

Mr. Davenport: It's a good gage.

Mr. Tenreiro: That's just an Algebra?

Mr. Davenport: They weren't making high school standards.

ESL

Ms. Mercer: Ms. Motta couldn't be here this evening, so I will fill in for her. She will continue with SIOP training.

There is Global Awareness class; Ladder Leadership Teams; she will continue NECAP preparation. They will be beginning after school "glee" club.

Her goals are:

Meet AMAOs; increase graduation rates of ELLs; study data more deeply-LADDER teams; support district initiatives including new teacher evaluation process; better support teachers and students and increase ELL parental involvement at school events and District Wide Parent Advisory.

Special Education

Ms. Crudele: Increase student placement in least restrictive setting; analyze student needs and resources including professional development. Reduce disproportionality of white emotionally disturbed students. Goals continue rising in areas student served in.

CTE/Applied Learning

Ms. Mercer: Again, Mr. Connolly was unable to be here this evening so I will speak on his behalf. Tolman Academies; Engineering will be added; early childhood education; law and public safety and there will be full implementation of marketing and management. There will be a newly endorsed academy of government and public administration at

Shea and fashion design will be in its planning year. Some very exciting news—JMW was approved by RIDE as a CTE program of study for dance, music, visual arts and theatre.

Educator Evaluation & Support

Ms. Cristino: RIIC Pawtucket is one of six in a consortium and started training last January. Administrator and peer evaluators have been highly trained. Training has been facilitated by Danielson group's national experts. The goal is to take ownership of this training by summer 2012 and continue support for evaluators.

Fallon and Goff piloted the model in which there were 3 administrators and 2 peer evaluators and 10 teachers participated. The focus was two full formal classroom observation cycles for each teacher. There was a pre-observation conference; observation and a post observation conference. This RI Innovation Model has been approved by RIDE for gradual implementation in 2011-2012.

In 2012-2013: full baseline year scheduled; 2013-2014: full implementation scheduled. Teacher Evaluation Committee will be working to clarify issues and make decisions.

Professional Development will be offered jointly through the Pawtucket school Department and the Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance.

Instructional Technology

SmartLab

Mr. Cristino: The first lab was implanted at Goff the second at Slater. They're both up and running.

Mr. Tenreiro: Are they scheduled classes?

Mr. Cristino: Yes they are scheduled classes. They are fully

scheduled.

Ms. Nordquist: Can anyone go in and use them?

Mr. Cristino: Currently they are fully scheduled, but we are working on that for next semester to leave some open and use every period of the day.

The PD computer lab is located upstairs now.

Virtual credit recovery is now offering courses in calculus and chemistry.

We're trying to recruit more underclassmen that are short credits to earn credits during the school year.

Mr. Tenreiro: Do they pay themselves?

Mr. Cristino: They pay \$25.00. The computer grades them, there's a math on math days, English on English day.

Mr. Spooner: That was the lab you took me on the tour this summer. I was pretty impressed with it.

Mr. Cristino: We've had over 2,000 enrolled with it. We've had 1,250 students taking one class. It's Apex Learning.

Mrs. Cylke: This is a topic we will be coming back to.

If we have 8th graders we knew were struggling, we might offer them a summer class in virtual learning as you add more on line it adds more on line and requires less teachers through attrition. Some kids can learn well through this manner. It's a way of learning that is not going away.

ePASS

All assessment data will be included in ePASS.

Informational Technology

Mr. St. Jean: We can make absence calls for elementary school students with Alert Now. AESOP-we can track employee absences and match up subs. We integrated Google apps, it saved the district \$20,000 and is free to maintain. We plan to add accounts for secondary students. We will be rolling out our new School Center web site very soon.

Infrastructure

BTOP grant is a fiber optic initiative connecting the Administration, Shea and Tolman to a Statewide fiber optic ring.

E-Rate- \$1.8M, we have a very good chance of getting these monies for updates to all schools.

Goals

Ms. Mercer: 95% of what you saw this evening is done in grants.

d. Preview of High Tech Professional Development Center, On Line Learning center and Potential Committee Board Room

Mrs. Cylke: There is some great multiple uses for downstairs. I want to avoid an expense and the comfortable chairs you've been in. I think we can create a great comfortable room for you. The HGTV team will show you the new room for you.

Ms. Mercer: We designed what we thought would best benefit the students and the staff.

Mrs. Cylke: The goal here is to always accommodate the space for professional development for certified and non certified.

Mr. Cristino: The current space is used by Credit Recovery from September through June. Diploma Plus uses it during the day and Summer School occupies the space in July and August and during

the school year the 3-5 Program is in there.

Proposed use:

Continue use of Diploma Plus; expand the 3-5 and use it as the School Committee Boardroom. There will be minimal set up and it allows for course expansion.

Mr. Tenreiro: Do we have outside groups coming in to use it? It could be a source of revenue.

Ms. Nordquist: I don't like the idea of walking by the Business Administrator's office; the Deputy Superintendent's office and the Superintendent's office. There's a lot of confidential information in those offices.

Mrs. Cylke: The primary goal is to have a professional development center with good parking, refrigerators, acoustics and comfort.

Mr. Araujo: Could projectors fall into the \$1.8M that you are projecting?

Mr. Conlon: That's for technology.

VIII Acceptance of previous meetings minutes: 5/31/11; 6/14/11 and 6/28/11

Ms. Bonollo moved to accept the minutes of 5/31/11; 6/14/11 and 6/28/11. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

XI Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Cylke: I will put on one of our next agendas a proposal to move our meetings to show case the Reed 180, the Goff Auditorium and the Slater Technology Lab. But that is up to the Committee.

XII Special Reports of School Committee Members

Ms. Nordquist: One of our former colleagues, Gordon Gould is going to be inducted into the Hall of Fame this Friday. He did a lot of good things and its well deserved.

**Mr. Araujo: I'd like to thank everyone who did a presentation tonight.
Good night.**

Ms. Bonollo: Good night.

Mr. Spooner: Good night.

XIII Adjournment

Ms. Bonollo moved to adjourn. Ms. Nordquist seconded.

Voice vote carried all in favor.

The Chairman adjourned the regular meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

APPROVED November 15, 2011